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LIVES LOST IN TEXAS FLOOD

Big Dam on Colorado River at Austin Gives Way.

WREAKS FEARFUL DESTRUCTION

City of Austin Was Heaviest Loser--Disasters the Result of Heavy Rain Storms.

Saturday night the city of Austin, Texas, was in darkness with a raging river one mile wide and swollen far beyond its natural banks, roaring and surging all through the lower portion of the town, having spread destruction and death in its wake.

In addition to the vast loss of property interests, it is calculated that between thirty and forty lives have been sacrificed, and the reports coming in from the tributary country do not tend to improve matters.

The flood was not unlike the disastrous Johnstown flood some years ago in that a raging river, already swollen far beyond its capacity, bore too heavily upon an immense dam spanning the river at Austin, breaking the same and letting loose a reservoir of water thirty miles long, half a mile wide and sixty feet deep, to aid in carrying destruction down the valleys of the Colorado river.

The great dam in the Colorado river gave way at noon to the enormous pressure of water and debris and with a roar and crash swept the valleys below the city, wrecking the immense light and power plant and drowning eight workmen.

Three days before it began raining very hard at Austin, the storm extending north along the watershed of the Colorado river. The precipitation continued until Saturday morning and as a finale the downfall averaged six inches within an hour. All this vast quantity of water along the watershed of the Colorado river rapidly swelled the current until at 8 o'clock the river, which had been rising steadily, was a raging torrent.

The crisis came shortly after 11 o'clock when suddenly, with a report like the roar of the ocean, a great wedge, twenty-five feet high, 500 feet wide and about eight feet thick, rolled out of the center section of the dam, down the face of the sixty-foot depth into the river below.

This left a yawning gap in the very middle of the dam, which through the debris and water fiercely poured. While the flood, already raging, was threatening everything in its path, this sudden breaking of the dam but served to add to the catastrophe. The released water poured into the power house, catching eight employes at work, drowning them instantly.

It is estimated that more than 100 houses have been destroyed and the loss to property will be great, independent of the light and power plant, costing \$1,500,000. The breaking of the dam engulfed the old water company's plant below the city and it is now lying fifteen feet under water, while the city is in darkness and without water.

Reports from points below Austin are to the effect that the flood has been most disastrous, and the breaking of the dam has occasioned many thousands of dollars' worth of loss to property. According to reports received it is believed that at least thirty lives were lost.

LATER ADVICES.

Sunday fully 30,000 people gathered at the dam and power house to witness the ruins of the plant which cost the city one and three-quarter millions of dollars a few years ago. The waters of the Colorado river were still plunging and foaming around the wreck, eating away the big pile of granite which once formed the dam as though it was nothing more than chalk rock.

Reports from the neighboring country were to the effect that everything was under water. In Williamson county, north of Austin, railroad bridges and trackage have been laid waste and all trains stopped running.

The country tributary to the Colorado river all the way down its course is being inundated, and while it is believed that the worst is over, the loss is estimated so far will exceed some \$3,000,000, counting Austin as the largest loser.

Fortunately the list of drowned is limited to those reported in the Associated Press dispatch of Saturday, as it seems the only drownings reported were at Austin when the dam broke and caught the victims unawares.

Reports from several sections of central and south Texas are to the effect that a large acreage is under water and much damage has been attendant upon property and live stock.

WAS LEGAL EXECUTION.

Garroting of Porto Rican Murderers Discussed in Washington.

Beyond the mere announcement that five criminals were to be executed at Ponce Saturday for murder and outrage, General Davis, the governor of Porto Rico, made no representation to the war department on this subject. The officials are concerned about the situation, mainly because of the method chosen for the execution of these criminals--the garrote.

But it is explained that neither for the enforcement of the death penalty, nor for the repulsive method of execution are the military authorities responsible. These are the results of the continuance in the island of the Spanish legal methods, according to the officials there. Some of the Washington officials heartily wish that it were otherwise in this particular case. There is, however, a marked indisposition to take any official action that will tend to incite the latent jealousy of the islanders over any encroachment upon their cherished customs and laws, hence the hesitancy to act in the present instance by committing the sentence of the criminals.

GIVEN HISTORICAL NAMES.

War Department Designates Batteries at Southern Points.

The war department has given historical names to the batteries forming the new sea coast defenses. Those at southern points are:

Port Royal, S. C., on St. Helena, Fort Demot.

Savannah harbor, Georgia, at Fort Screven, Battery Habersham; at same fort, Battery Brumby.

Key West, at Fort Taylor, Battery DeLeon; at same fort, Battery Osceola; same fort, Battery Seminole.

Tampa bay, Florida, Egmont key, Fort Dade; on Mullet key, Fort Demot.

Pensacola bay at fort Pickens, Battery Worth; same fort, Battery Culbertson.

Mobile bay, at Fort Morgan, Battery Dearborn; at same fort, Battery Bower.

EPIDEMIC OF SUICIDE.

Soldiers Away From Home Are Prone to Tire of Life.

According to advices received by the New York World, from May 1, 1899, to April 1, 1900, there have been 83 suicides in the armies of the United States, nearly every one due to insanity.

During the same period nearly one thousand soldiers have been shipped from their various posts in Hawaii, Porto Rico, Cuba and the Philippines to the military insane asylum in Washington.

Of these about 90 per cent have come from the Philippines.

Since December 1 last there have been 29 suicides there, all due to insanity.

BLOCKED BOER RESOLUTION.

Mr. Payne, Republican Floor Leader of House, Made Objection.

In the house Saturday Mr. Richardson, of Tennessee, asked unanimous consent for the consideration of the following resolution:

"Resolved, That this house views with deep interest the heroic struggle of the republics of South Africa to maintain their independence and hereby tender them our most profound sympathy in their unequal but gallant struggle."

"That resolution should go to the committee on foreign affairs," observed Mr. Payne, of New York, the floor leader of the majority.

"Did I understand the gentleman to object?" asked Mr. Richardson.

"I did," replied Mr. Payne.

BOER PRISONERS ESCAPE.

Fourteen Get Away From the Jail at Simonstown.

A determined attempt to escape was made Saturday by the Boer prisoners at Simonstown and 14 of them succeeded in getting away.

In the confusion one of the prisoners was killed and another was wounded. One man was recaptured, but about 14 are missing.

Otis Coming Home.

General Otis has been formally relieved of the command of the United States forces in the Philippines and of the Eighth army corps, and is scheduled to return to the United States this month.

DEMOCRATS ARE PLEASED

Over Decision of Kentucky State Court of Appeals in Their Favor.

The news of the action of the Kentucky court was received with rejoicing among Kentucky Democrats in Washington. They did not expect anything else, but they were nevertheless rejoiced that the contention of the Democrats have been so strongly endorsed by the courts. It is especially gratifying to them that two of the three Republican judges should have reached the same conclusions that the Democratic judges did and that Beckham's right to his seat is so strongly confirmed.

COURT FAVORS GOV. BECKHAM

Decision of the Highest Tribunal in the State of Kentucky.

ONLY ONE JUDGE FOR TAYLOR

Two Republican Members of the Court Agree in Opinion of the Four Democrats.

Friday the court of appeals of the state of Kentucky rendered a decision in the consolidated case involving the governorship, sustaining the decision of Circuit Judge Field, and declaring that the action of the legislature declaring William Goebel to be governor and J. C. W. Beckham lieutenant governor was final.

It is held that the courts have no power to review this action of the legislature; that the governor exceeded his authority in adjourning the legislature to meet in London, Ky., and that the journals of the two houses of the general assembly, being regular, cannot be impeached.

The division of the court was 6 to 1 in favor of the Democrats, four Democrats and two Republicans concurring in the majority opinion. Judge Durrelle, Republican, dissented. The majority opinion was written by Hobson.

Judges Guffy and Burnham, Republicans, wrote shorter concurring opinions agreeing with the majority on all vital points, but denouncing the action of the legislature in unseating Governor Taylor and Lieutenant Governor Marshall.

After a consultation Friday afternoon between ex-Governor Bradley and other Republican leaders, the announcement was made that application would be made at once to the United States supreme court on a writ of error.

PERSECUTION, SAYS TAYLOR.

Governor Taylor gave out the following statement at Frankfort Friday night:

"For weeks I have been made the target of vilification by certain unprincipled newspapers in Kentucky. The vilest insinuations have been made and the most outrageous falsehoods have been told. When I was called to attend the funeral of a beloved brother, it was seized upon as an attempt on my part to fly from justice. Again, when called to my home by reason of the death of a dear sister, the fountains of abuse were opened and a flood of falsehoods and slander poured forth upon me, the charge again being made that I was attempting to fly from the state.

"On my return to Frankfort those papers hastened to publish the statement that I was met at the train and escorted to my home by a squad of soldiers with a Gatling gun. There is not a word of truth in this statement, but nevertheless it was published and caused me harm. Not content with this infamous, ghoulish work, which with the unblushing audacity has followed me to the grave of my brother and sister, even the privacy of my family has been invaded, and because my wife drew from the bank some money with which to pay the servants, an attempt was made to impress the people that she, too, was preparing to fly.

"Once and for all, I desire to say neither directly nor indirectly had I any connection with the assassination of Senator Goebel. I am a citizen of this state, amenable to its laws. I am not a criminal, neither shall I ever be a fugitive from justice. Whenever indicted, if such an outrage should be committed, I shall appear for trial, conscientious of my innocence and of the ultimate triumph of right and justice. The whole purpose of this prosecution has been, and is, to drive me from my post of duty, and to punish me for holding the office to which I have fairly been elected. Such surrender I have not made, nor will I make it, unless the highest courts of this land should adjudicate that I do so."

REPUBLICANS MAY AMALGAMATE.

Report of Proposed Union of Transvaal and Free State Comes From Pretoria.

It is reported from Pretoria that a scheme has been arranged for the amalgamation of the Transvaal and the Free State. Kruger will become president of the federated states and Steyn commandant general of the Boer army. The flag will be the same as that of the Transvaal, with an additional orange color.

Machinists Decide to Strike.

The machinists of Cleveland, O., decided to go on a strike Thursday morning. Between 1,500 and 2,000 men are affected.

BOERS CORAL MANY BRITONS

Five Companies of Roberts' Troops Are Captured.

THE NEWS DEPRESSES ENGLAND

Queen, Who Is in Ireland, Hears the Story--Roberts Wires the Facts.

A London special says: Lord Roberts reports that five companies of British troops have been captured by the Boers near Bethany.

The following is the text of his dispatch to the war office announcing the capture of five companies of his own troops:

"BLOEMFONTEIN, Thursday, April 5. Another unfortunate occurrence has occurred, resulting, I fear in the capture of a party of infantry consisting of three companies of the Royal Irish Fusiliers and two companies of the Ninth regiment of mounted infantry near Reddersburg, a little eastward of Bethany railway station, within a few miles of this place. They were surrounded by a stronger force of the enemy with four or five guns.

"The detachment held out from noon April 3d, until April 4th at 9 a. m., and then, apparently, surrendered, for it is reported that the firing ceased at that time. Immediately after I heard the news, during the afternoon of April 3d, I ordered Gatore to proceed to Reddersburg from Springfontein, his present headquarters, with all possible speed, and I dispatched the Cameron Highlanders hence to Bethany. He arrived at Reddersburg at 10:30 o'clock yesterday morning without opposition, but could get no news of the missing detachment. There can be no doubt the whole party has been made prisoners."

QUEEN HEARS NEWS.

Lord Roberts' dispatch describing the disaster at Reddersburg was printed in the Dublin evening papers and created general consternation. It brought the populace with a quick turn from the rejoicing over the queen's visit to the great issues of the war, and cast a sudden gloom over the gaiety of the party at the castle.

A prominent member of the cabinet, now in Dublin, when interviewed by the correspondent of the Associated Press did not attempt to conceal his mortification, nor to minimize the evil effect of such reverses upon the prestige of the empire abroad. He attributes it and others like it of recent occurrence to a lack of horses and to the inability of the remnants sent forward to endure the climate. He appeared to have no hope of immediate advance in force.

In the cabinet minister's statement there was no criticism of Lord Roberts, who appears to be trusted implicitly, but intense irritation and chagrin are felt that so many "unfortunate circumstances" should retard the march to Pretoria.

JUDGE BROWN'S DEFENSE.

Writes a Card in Relation to Release of Greene and the Gaynors.

United States District Judge Brown at New York reviewed in an interview Friday the grounds of his decision in refusing a bench warrant for the removal to Georgia of B. D. Greene, J. F. E. H. and W. T. Gaynor, indicted in Savannah in connection with the frauds carried out by former Captain Carter. Judge Brown said, among other things:

"The reported surprise and anger on account of my decision have, in my mind, nothing more back of them than a passionate feeling down south that they would like to take these men by the neck and hustle them off to trial down there. There is a feeling that they are swindlers and should be brought to trial there at once, where the witnesses against them are."

NEW LINE FOR SOUTHERN.

First Mortgage Bonds of Air-Line Amounting to \$2,500,000 Sold.

The Southern Railway is now virtually the owner of the Air-Line road through a deal consummated in Boston Friday whereby it secured control of the entire issue of the first mortgage bonds amounting to \$2,000,000. A telegram was received in Louisville from a member of the bondholders' committee saying that an offer had been made by representatives of the Southern for the bonds. The local bondholders who control a majority of the issue, held a quick consultation and it was decided to accept the offer.

SECRET IS OUT.

A Washington Correspondent Explains Mystery Surrounding Dewey's Announcement.

The Atlanta Journal's Washington correspondent wires his paper as follows:

Here is the whole secret of the Dewey announcement for president in a nutshell: The scheme was engineered by Colonel Hugh C. Wallace, of the state of Washington; ex-Secretary William C. Whitney and Hon. Daniel Lamont. It first took shape at the Whitney dinner in New York some weeks ago. Its purpose was to disorganize the Bryan Democracy.

At the time Dewey had not been consulted and Wallace was delegated to approach the admiral. Just before Dewey went south Wallace called on the admiral, and stated the proposition and assured him that it would be possible to capture the Kansas City convention by keeping the scheme quiet until the proper time to spring it. Dewey discouraged the idea, but frankly admitted that he would aid any movement to defeat McKinley.

When the admiral and Mrs. Dewey returned from the south, Wallace approached him again and this time he took the matter under advisement. Thursday afternoon last, Lamont called at the Dewey home and was in conference with the admiral for an hour. Mrs. Dewey was in this conference, and advised her husband to become a candidate. It was agreed at the time that the announcement should be made only indirectly until the effect of the suggestion could be tested.

After Lamont had returned to his hotel the admiral sent for Charles S. Albert, the chief of the World's Washington staff, and gave to him the dictated interview. The idea of the engineers of the movement was to ascertain if the Dewey announcement would meet with such popular favor as to carry the country by storm, and at least deadlock the Kansas City convention with the possibility of either nominating him or nominating some other than Bryan.

Dewey on the other hand is bitter toward McKinley, as is also Mrs. Dewey, largely for personal reasons, and he is willing now to head an independent movement if he can draw enough Republican votes to assure even Bryan's election. His candidacy has fallen flat, his promoters are unwilling for him to head any movement that might assist instead of detract from Bryan, and there is already a threatened split between the new candidate and those responsible for his candidacy.

All factions are now waiting for developments before making another move. If after the first wave of disapproval and resentment the reaction is in favor of Dewey, he will be urged by the Lamont faction to continue his race and go to Kansas City a candidate. If on the other hand it has been seen that there is absolutely no possibility to capture the regular Democratic nomination, the question of his heading an independent ticket will be discussed and decided upon its possible results.

BACK TAXES PAID.

Four Building and Loan Companies in Atlanta Settle With County and State.

An Atlanta dispatch says: Forty thousand dollars is the amount of back taxes collected for the state and Fulton county from four building and loan associations in the city.

The terms of settlement were agreed upon several days ago, the associations expressing a willingness to deposit checks for specified amounts.

The amounts to be paid by the different associations were, in round numbers, as follows: Southern Home \$16,000; National Railway, \$9,000; Atlanta National, \$12,000; Interstate, \$3,000.

The amounts claimed by the state and county for taxes, under the recent ruling of the supreme court was more than two hundred thousand dollars, but conferences between representatives of the association and the county commissioners resulted in a settlement for the smaller sum.

Brawley Is No Boomer.

The story printed in New York that United States District Judge Brawley, of Charleston, with Gorman, Whitney, McLean and others, has helped to engineer the presidential announcement of Admiral Dewey is emphatically denied by Judge Brawley.

STEVENS MAKES FINAL APPEAL.

The Cotton Acreage in Georgia Will Be Known This Month.

In his April talk to the farmers of Georgia, which was issued Wednesday from the state department of agriculture, Commissioner O. B. Stevens calls attention to the fact that the present month will determine the cotton acreage of the year and as commissioner makes a final appeal to the growers of the state to see that too much cotton is not planted.

Before the end of the month a fair estimate of Georgia's contribution to the cotton crop of the world can be made.

FIRE DESTROYS AUDITORIUM

Meeting Place For Democratic Convention Reduced to Ashes.

WILL BE REBUILT AT ONCE.

Subscriptions Taken While Hall Was Burning--Adjacent Property Also Annihilated.

Convention hall, Kansas City's pride, wherein the Democratic national convention was to have been held on July 4th, was laid in ruins in less than thirty minutes' time Wednesday afternoon, from the time that it started, from an unknown source at 1 o'clock.

The fire burned with such fury that it was evident almost from the start that the structure was doomed, and the firemen soon turned their attention to saving surrounding property.

A stiff breeze was blowing and before the fire was subdued at 2:15 o'clock the Second Presbyterian church, one of the finest edifices in the city; the church parsonage, the Lathrop public school, a two-story, thirteen-room building, all situated across the way on Central street, and a half block of three story flat buildings on Twelfth street, were rendered a total loss.

Several residences were damaged to a greater or less degree, and for a time it was feared that several blocks of buildings in the residence district would go.

The aggregate loss is \$400,000, apportioned as follows:

Convention hall, \$235,000, insurance \$155,000; church, \$50,000, insured; parsonage, \$15,000, insured; school, \$35,000, insurance \$20,400; Williamson block, Twelfth street, \$80,000, insurance \$45,000.

Plans are on foot to rebuild Convention hall immediately, and make it ready for the Democratic National Convention in July. While the fire was still in progress members of the Commercial club, through whose efforts the hall was conceived and built, mingled in the crowd of spectators and began soliciting funds for a new structure.

During the evening \$25,000 had been subscribed, and Secretary Clendenning of the club, called a mass meeting of citizens to devise ways and means of raising an additional \$50,000. The hall association has \$10,000 in the bank and will have the \$155,000 insurance for immediate use, the insurance companies having spontaneously agreed to waive the sixty days' limit and make settlement on demand.

The Kansas City Lumber Company, who furnished four-fifths of the lumber for the old building, has agreed to duplicate their order at once at the rate in existence two years ago, and the Minneapolis firm that furnished the steel girders for the immense roof has been telegraphed to duplicate their order.

A strong wind carried the flames to the Second Presbyterian church on carpenters and forced thirty-five of them to quit work. The present rate of wages is \$1.50 per ten-hour day. The leaders of the movement demanded eight-hour labor day.

At noon Thursday a mob of over 10,000 people assembled and attacked the St. Thomas laborers. There were 150 policemen on duty, but they made no attempt to disperse the crowd, and a company of infantry was called out to preserve order. The crowd was not violent beyond beating a few men. The agitators were headed by Santiago Iglesias, late delegate to the labor convention at New York.

The leaders from St. Thomas refused to return to work, being afraid of attack after hours. The workmen who were satisfied and willing to work were forced out by the so-called union leaders, with the result that the natives will not be engaged. The company has cabled to the United States for twenty-five carpenters. They will arrive on the next steamer. The pier is now protected by soldiers.

DID WORK OF TEN MEN.

Manipulator of Mergenthaler Type Machine Breaks the Record.

Weyman Starr Conway, a Mergenthaler linotype operator employed in the composing room of The Atlanta Journal, made the remarkable record Wednesday of setting and correcting 83,700 ems of type in eight hours.

Under the old regime, before Otto Mergenthaler and his wonderful typesetting machine was ever heard of--when all type was set by hand--1,000 ems an hour was considered good work. So it will be seen that with the aid of Mergenthaler's wonderful invention Mr. Conway did the work of ten men in the time mentioned.